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MAY DAY

Workers fight for their lives

By John Parker

May Day's historical significance this year is compounded by a worldwide capitalist crisis that lays bare, for all to see, capitalism's downright murderous neglect and contempt for humanity.

In the U.S., COVID-19 infections and deaths continue to climb. In the socialist countries of China, Cuba and Vietnam (Vietnam has no deaths from COVID-19 as of this writing), the virus has been contained. The socialist countries have shown how to prioritize the means of production to save lives. Yet, the U.S. continues to rely on the failed "free market" and therefore cannot provide testing for all or even the basic medical equipment necessary to safeguard health care workers.

Cuba and China have led the way in assisting the world with doctors and equipment. Cuba also provides Interferon alfa-2b, a drug that has been effective against the coronavirus.

The U.S. has sabotaged world efforts with lies and sanctions against countries in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

What does all of this have to do with May Day?

The day was established as one of action to empower working people towards ending exploitation, beginning with the demand for an 8-hour work day, ending the "sunrise to sunset" working hours that could range from 12 to 18 hours per day. May Day's establishment as an international celebration of working-class actions was motivated and organized primarily by socialists, communists and anarchists with a goal of defeating capitalism as a system and replacing it with some form of socialist society.

This is why — in spite of the challenges to activism presented by the virus with folks shut in — workers organizations and especially socialist and communist organizations worldwide were determined to mark the day in creative ways that continued the tradition of workers' fightback.

From California to Virginia, workers and activists came out protesting at Amazon warehouses. In Los Angeles, for example, organizations including Unión del Barrio, BAYAN-USA and the Human Rights Alliance came out to Inglewood supporting Amazon workers on May Day. Another demonstration by Amazon workers occurred at another warehouse in Richmond, Calif.

A coalition of essential workers from Amazon, Instacart, Whole Foods, Walmart, Target and FedEx called out sick or walked out during their lunch break demanding hazard pay and essential health and safety equipment.

International Workers Day Caravan in Baltimore

And one of the organizations that has been holding almost weekly creative and safe demonstrations in Baltimore is the Peoples Power Assembly, which issued a call for an International Workers Day Caravan on May 1.

The caravan also showed support for the demands of frontline workers nationwide who have called for personal protective equipment (PPE), hazard pay, paid sick leave, safe work conditions and rent cancellation.

The twenty-three vehicles that joined the caravan were covered with posters and slogans like "Safe work is a right, PPE and protection now," "Paid sick leave for all" and "Public health over profit."

The union representing health care workers, 1199SEIU, helped lead the caravan in the union's van along with the Peoples Power Assembly. Baltimore Peace Action, Veterans for Peace, the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, the Sunrise Movement, Communist Party Baltimore, Struggle-La Lucha/Socialist Unity Party and the International League of Peoples' Struggle were among the other organizations represented.

The caravan drove by the Charles Village Safeway, Mercy Hospital, City Hall, the central Post Office, Douglas Homes (the site of food distributions), Johns Hopkins Hospital, North East Market and concluded the caravan at the entrance of the Amazon warehouses. Following strict social distancing protocols, Sharon Black of the Peoples Power Assembly gave an amplified speech to the encircled caravan.

"I used to work at that [Amazon] building right over there at Broening Highway, and I have friends who are in that death warehouse right now," Black said. "Bezos marked May 1, International Workers' Day, by telling everybody who is on voluntary sick leave that they have to come back, or they lose their jobs."

"And on May 15, people are going to lose their hazard pay," she continued. "Or so-called hazard pay — it is nothing. It is pennies. Don't believe the PR about it."

"We have to keep our fight up because capitalism is a brutal system that must go."

As the Baltimore action shows, many other issues, including demands for rent control and fighting homelessness, were part of the day's focus in Baltimore and nationally as well.

Millions safely celebrate in Cuba

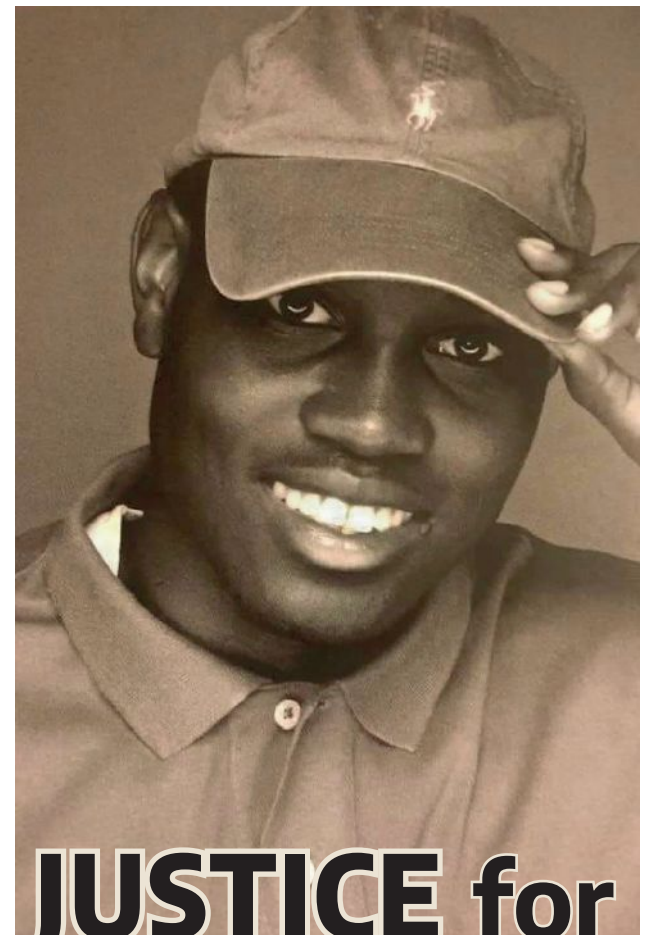
And, the international actions of May Day were also creative.

In Cuba, for example, the millions who normally come out for May Day waved their Cuban flags and celebrated on their balconies. The Cuban government canceled the annual May Day parade to keep the population safe.

The Xinhua news service quoted María Romero, 52, a nurse at a polyclinic in Havana, Cuba, who said: "The best way to celebrate May Day is through helping combat the coronavirus," adding that she will "hang a Cuban flag from the balcony as a symbol of national unity."

The day of May 1 was inspired by the events that occurred in 1886 on May 3 and May 4 in Chicago, where strikers demanding an 8-hour day at Haymarket Square were killed by police, followed by the frame-up and execution of the strike leaders. The wife of one of the framed-up labor leaders was a labor leader herself. African, Native, Mexican-American Lucy Parsons has been described as a socialist, communist and anarcho-syndicalist. Her actions after the Haymarket Square incident were instrumental in the creation of May Day. She

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JUSTICE for AHMAUD ARBERY

End white supremacy & racist murder

*Statement from Socialist Unity Party/
Partido de Socialismo Unido*

Similarities between the cases of Trayvon Martin, murdered Feb. 26, 2012, and Ahmaud Arbery, murdered Feb. 23, 2020, are peculiar. Both of these Black youth were unarmed, both were stalked and killed in February, and no charges were made at the time, because in both incidents the killers claimed self-defense. Both would have turned 26 this year, Trayvon Martin in February and Ahmaud Arbery on May 8.

What is alarmingly different about Ahmaud's case is that the video footage was in police hands from day one. The video was released publicly on May 5, two-and-a-half months after the killing. The video ignited a firestorm of outrage throughout the nation. What is astonishing, but also typical, are the different interpretations of the video — one being of a coldblooded murder and the other, by elected District Attorney George E. Barnhill, as a justified killing of a Black jogger, shot and killed by two white men.

As Ahmaud Arbery's mother, Wonda Cooper's view encompassed what most people seeing the video said: "My son was killed in the streets as he was run down and chased by two vehicles and nobody went to jail. They got to go home and my baby was placed in a body bag."

The disturbing video that emerged May 5 shows Ahmaud Arbery jogging down a narrow road in Brunswick, Ga., in broad daylight, when he is confronted by the two armed men. As Arbery jogs, Travis McMichael can be seen waiting for him in the road with a shotgun, while his father stands in the back of a pickup truck with a revolver. After a brief confrontation, Arbery is shot at 3 times.

The video was filmed by a third white man, William Bryan, an accomplice to the murder who, as of May 9, still has not been charged or arrested. The Brunswick police admit hav-

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- ▶ **Hands off Post Office** ▶ **China did it?** ▶ **Turkey hunger strike**
- ▶ **¡Ken Roh presente!** ▶ **Lenin, thinker and fighter**

Nurses suspended for demanding PPE Union fights back and wins

By John Parker

Los Angeles – In mid-April, 10 nurses employed at Providence Saint John’s Hospital in Santa Monica, Calif., were suspended for demanding the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep them from infection and possible death due to exposure to the deadly COVID-19 virus while working on infected patients.

The hospital administration claimed that the nurses already had the necessary equipment to remain safe and that N95 masks were not needed. However, one nurse at the hospital told the Los Angeles Times that she knew personally that this is not true. Angela Gatdula said she was exposed to COVID-19 while treating patients with the virus. She tested positive for the virus on April 9.

Gatdula said she should have been given the available N95 masks since she was treating COVID-19 patients.

One of the suspended nurses, Jack Cline, who is especially vulnerable to the virus because he is also diabetic, told the L.A. Times that he refused to go into a room with an infected patient without the proper protection. Even doctors in that room, who did have N95 masks on, told him he



Loud-honking car caravan protest on April 21.

should not enter without the proper mask. However, he was suspended and, like the other nurses, threatened by the hospital administration, saying they may pursue having his nursing license removed.

However, that’s not where the story ends.

The hospital administration underestimated the militancy of the nurses and their belonging to the largest nurses’ union in the U.S., with more than 150,000 members nationwide. The National Nurses United is the largest union and professional association of registered nurses in U.S. history, the labor organization

says on its web site.

Add to that the solidarity of the progressive movement and activists who came out consistently for the nurses. A well-attended and loud-honking car caravan protest on April 21 was organized by the union, which invited the community of folks in solidarity with the nurses to come out and demand the nurses be reinstated and given the necessary protections to do their jobs and remain safe.

For over an hour, honking horns were heard from cars adorned with signs in support of the nurses and circling the perimeter of the hospital.



Nurses who refused to care for coronavirus patients without N95 masks are suspended, union fights back and wins

The nurses’ demands included greater hospital transparency regarding PPE, the lifting of ordered leave for nurses without masks who refuse to treat patients, and the availability of hotel rooms where they can quarantine.

And...

On that very same day, the hospital reinstated the nurses and will now supply nurses with N95 masks for those working with infected patients.

In spite of the challenges to continuing activism that exist during this COVID-19 crisis, with unity, creativity and especially solidarity, we can still make gains! 📌

Workers’ lives before meatpucker profits

By Stephen Millies

Donald Trump celebrated Workers’ Memorial Day on April 28 by ordering dangerously unsafe meatpacking and poultry plants to remain open.

Twenty workers in the industry have already died and nearly 5,000 have tested positive for the coronavirus, according to the Center for Disease Control. The 115 infected facilities with 130,000 workers were in 19 states.

Even 100 U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors have caught the virus.

Working in these slaughterhouses was always risky. Between 2015 and 2017, an average of two workers a week had one of their limbs amputated.

Workers having their hands or fingers cut off didn’t bother the bleach promoter in the White House. Trump invoked the Defense Production Act in order to shield monopolies like Tyson Foods, with annual sales of \$42 billion, from lawsuits.

“We’re going to sign an executive order today, I believe, and that’ll solve any liability problems,” said Trump.

Green Bay, Wis., Mayor Eric Genrich said Trump’s order gave a legal blank check to “meat packing conglomerates.” Five hundred workers in the nearby JBS meatpacking plant contracted COVID-19.

Meatpacking executives were “thrilled,” according to the president, after he called them. “They’re so happy. They’re all gung-ho, and we solved their problems”

There’s no mention of Trump talking to any elected union officials representing workers that use “dan-



Workers at Tyson’s Camilla, Georgia, poultry processing plant.

gerous equipment,” work on “slippery floors,” and suffer from “high noise levels” and “musculoskeletal disorders,” according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Workers aren’t too “gung-ho” about being exposed to animal blood and feces, either.

Sacrificing workers for profit

Trump’s executive order came two days after John H. Tyson, chairman of the board of Tyson Foods, placed newspaper ads claiming “the food supply chain is vulnerable.”

Who’s really vulnerable are workers like Tara Williams, who’s employed at the Tyson poultry plant in Camilla, Ga. Her friend and co-worker, Eloise Willis, died of COVID-19 on April 1. It took management two weeks to put up a picture of Willis and tell workers she had died.

Eloise Willis worked a 10-hour shift at Tyson for 35 years. She and her fellow union members handled

100,000 chickens per shift.

Big-hearted John Tyson is now offering workers a \$500 bonus in May and again in July if they have “good” attendance. The blood money shouldn’t take too much out of Tyson’s \$2 billion fortune.

Work or starve

No one should have to work in dangerous conditions. If the entire U.S. workforce were exposed to COVID-19 at the same rate as meatpacking and poultry workers are, over 5 million would have tested positive.

Because of the meat monopolies’ drive for profits, employees are often placed close together on a production line. This virtually guarantees a high infection rate.

Despite the pandemic, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds is telling workers to go back to work or lose unemployment benefits. Iowa Workforce Development said that any worker refusing to go back to work because they

fear catching the coronavirus would be considered a “voluntary quit” — and denied benefits.

Reynolds went ahead with loosening social-distancing restrictions in the Hawkeye State even though seven epidemiology and biostatistics professors from the University of Iowa advised the governor not to do so.

The entire labor and peoples’ movements have to organize against workers being forced to go back to unsafe companies. No worker should have to choose between losing benefits or getting sick and possibly dying on the job.

During World War II, a largely Black force of sailors loaded munitions at Port Chicago, Calif., 48 miles from San Francisco. Unsafe conditions led to a July 17, 1944, explosion in which 320 sailors were killed.

Their families were originally supposed to get a \$5,000 benefit. This was reduced to \$3,000 after Mississippi Congressman John Rankin realized most of the victims were African American.

When many surviving Black sailors refused to go back to work under the same conditions, they were labeled “cowards” by the corporate newspapers. Fifty sailors were charged with mutiny, a death penalty offense.

Future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall led the defense campaign that won the sailors’ release in 1946.

Trump and the capitalist class are trying to force workers back to dangerous conditions just like the Navy brass ordered Black sailors back to loading explosives at Port Chicago. But human life is more important than meat profits. 📌

Mobilizing for Mumia Abu-Jamal's 66th birthday in the midst of COVID-19

By Gloria Verdieu
and Mary Lou Finley

All of us, every one of us, when we fight, we win. So let us fight together. Never forget the love for each and every one of you for the remarkable work you have done and we have done together, so let's get together. Let's make it happen.

Message to my supporters from Mumia Abu-Jamal – April 24, 2020 Recorded by Noelle Hanrahan from Prison Radio

In March and April, there were several conference calls about the next steps that need to be taken in the campaign to free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is great concern among all the members of the movement about inmates in all the jails, prisons, detention centers and other correctional institutions like juvenile halls. All correctional institutions are overcrowded with little or no personal hygiene or sanitizing products, and they lack adequate medical care.

It's imperative to obtain the release of all prisoners now. The growing movement has to put maximum pressure on officials to make this re-

lease happen.

As explained in a recorded message by Ivan Kilgore, an inmate in the California Department of Corrections, on Prison Radio:

"All it takes is for one person to walk into this environment and you have a crisis on your hands. It is not so much getting it from prisoners, it is getting it from the correctional staff."

When asked, "If you start feeling COVID symptoms, how long would it take for you to see a doctor?" Kilgore responded, "The problem with that amongst prisoners is they would be afraid to report that because it would automatically result in them being isolated in the hole."

Inmates have very few personal hygiene products or other means of sanitizing, they don't have adequate medical care, and most importantly, they are not able to practice social distancing — which makes jails, prisons and detention centers death traps for prisoners, staff, the surrounding community and connected communities.

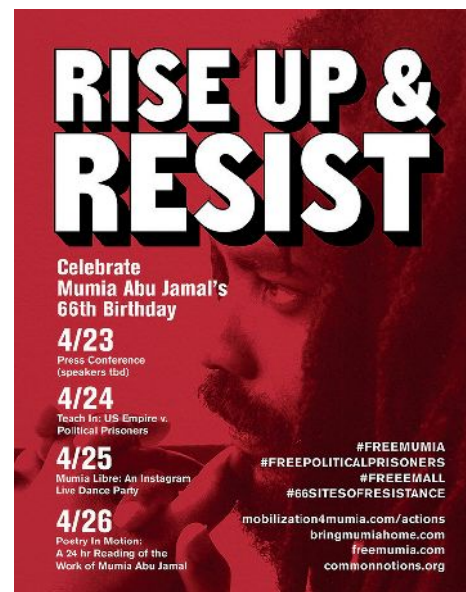
The International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Mobilization4Mumia, the San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia and All Political Prisoners, Bring Mumia Home, On a Move, Workers World Party, the

Socialist Unity Party, the Peace and Freedom Party, the African People's Socialist Party, Saigon Penn Cop Watch, All of Us or None, Unión del Barrio, Black Lives Matter, the Black Alliance, De-incarcerate Pennsylvania, the American Indian Movement (AIM), the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (ILP-DC), the Abolitionist Law Collective, Amistad, Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) and the Prison Solidarity Committee are some of the many organizations that are involved in the movement.

April 15 Twitter storm

On April 15, there was a social media Twitter storm, emails and phone zaps to Gov. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, all day, to get the word out.

This movement alarmed the Pennsylvania Department of Correction officials. One of the supporters participating in the "phone zap" was falsely told that Mumia was hospitalized with COVID-19 symptoms. This scared many supporters, as the message spread around the world, because Mumia's health makes him at high risk from dying from the virus. This was a cruel thing to do. Many supporters called the DOC demanding to hear from Mumia himself.



On the morning of April 16, Prison Radio released a recorded phone conversation of Mumia with Pam Africa and other members of the Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, where he thanked everyone for checking on him and caring about him and assured everyone that he is okay. Mumia said, "What I need is freedom."

The coalition put out an emergency press release and organized a news conference on April 16 condemning Pennsylvania DOC's cruel hoax claiming Mumia was hospitalized with COVID-19 symptoms.

Committees met to plan and orga-

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I RUN WITH AHMAUD

By Rebecka Jackson

We need to start by understanding the nature of slavery. Slavery is a condition in which one must work for a master, follow his rules, exist within the narrow confines of expression he allows, remain docile and obedient, be grateful for his meager handouts, never organize, never rebel, be kept from education, not share in the fruits of one's labor, worship his god, speak his language, bend oneself to his comfort.

Black people are a slave class in America. We enjoy none of the same freedoms, rights or safeties afforded to white citizens. Though slavery has morphed in name — chattel, Jim Crowism, forced labor camps, wage slavery, prison-industrial complex — it has not morphed in practice. We eat scraps, bathe in poisoned water, are barred from home and land ownership, denied the right to vote.

Ahmaud Arbery likely felt as close to freedom as he could on the early afternoon of Feb. 23. On an open road, running, seemingly alone, hopefully unbothered. Though we live under the constant threat of white violence, we try to move forward as normally as possible, build our lives, shape our futures.

I have been in Ahmaud's position too many times. As a competitive runner since age five, I was often out on country roads alone. Cars often wouldn't come by for hours and I would generally feel free, unburdened — broken only on days an occasional "N*****!" was screeched out of a car window.

It wasn't until an evening run in my late teens when a cargo van



Protesters at the Glynn County Courthouse in Brunswick, Ga., where Ahmaud Arbery was shot and killed, May 9.

passed me, slowed down, stopped in my path and turned off their lights. In less than moments, I had to make vital decisions. In front of me, home and the van. I would have to pass them, hope they were just trying to scare me or be ready to outrun them if they weren't. If I turned around to run the other way, it was into nothingness, even further from help. I knew the possibility of guns. No one would even hear me scream.

I kept running forward, feeling propelled to try to make it home. As I closed the meters toward the van, another car drove by in a rare stroke of luck and the van took off. I never ran in the evening again. Later, my younger sister was almost abducted by white supremacists in a truck in broad daylight. When my grandmother tried to reach the police and the FBI, they told

her there was nothing they could do.

I cannot stop replaying the thoughts inside Ahmaud's head. I know what he was living through in that moment the truck cut him off: To turn and be chased into some strange and unfamiliar place, to hope these monsters were just trying to scare him and would back away after they got out their "n*****" and "boys," or to try to run on, to just get home, to hope that there was help on the other side.


Ahmaud didn't have a choice. Gregory McMichael and Travis McMichael had made up their minds. They were out for blood. Ahmaud was their prey. In their minds, he had stepped outside the bounds of their prescribed slavery, had violated them with his very existence, and they were intent on his execution.

They were then celebrated and exalted for their murder. Why were they not held as terrorists? Charged with committing a horrendous hate crime? Because they fulfill the white supremacist corporatocracy agenda.

Just as Dylan Roof was congratulated with a delicate arrest and a Burger King treat, Ahmaud's murderers were applauded by the police and the corrupt district attorney. These forces have historically condoned the lynchings of Black people. It is only because of the circulation of the video that there was any accountability. Imagine how many other Black joggers, walkers, skippers, breathers, swimmers, drivers, bus riders, bikers and sunset watchers have been gunned down in cold blood.

This one was on video. It is the only reason there was an arrest. What must his family have gone through? These months, having to fight for justice as well as his legacy. Labeled a thief. And what if he was a thief? Someone's possessions are worth a life? A slave's life? Of course. We are property to them, nothing more.

We must look plainly at Ahmaud's execution, and we must look plainly at our existence. Capitalism was built on slavery and cannot exist without a slave class. Ahmaud was murdered because this system needed him dead or in servitude. His freedom, his run, did not serve the capitalist system and so like any rebellious slave, he was lynched.

Without unity, without mobilization, without the complete eradication of capitalism, we will never be free. We will continue to slave under new masters and exist under the conditions they prescribe to us. 

Hands off the post office!

By Stephen Millies

The post office is needed now more than ever. Postal workers are delivering prescription medicines and plenty of other mail and packages to people's homes during this health crisis.

They're doing so at the risk of their own lives. At least 44 postal workers have died of COVID-19 and over 1,200 have tested positive for the virus, says Cathy Hanson, a retired postal worker and editor for the Minneapolis Area Local, American Postal Workers Union, at usmailnotforsale.org.

Even capitalists need the post office. So why do Trump and his fellow billionaires want to destroy the oldest department of the U.S. government that dates back to 1775? Because the Postal Service is the largest employer of union workers in the United States.

After decades of deindustrialization, with dozens of factory towns like Detroit and Milwaukee impoverished, the post office is like an oasis of unionism. This is particularly true in the Deep South and some Western states.

The wealthy and powerful never forgave postal employees for their 1970 rebellion. The 200,000 workers who went on a wildcat strike won a victory for all poor and working people.

Fifty years ago, the starting salary of postal workers was less than \$3 per hour. On March 12, 1970, members of Congress voted themselves a 41 percent pay hike. But they offered post office employees a mere 5.4 percent raise, which was less than the inflation rate.

Letter carrier and future union leader Vincent Sombrotto urged workers to fight back. The response of workers, starting in New York City, was to go on strike on March 18, 1970. It was the 99th anniversary of the Paris Commune, the world's first working-class government.

President Richard "Watergate" Nixon declared a state of emergency and wanted to fire the workers. He



Postal workers rally outside the Thompson Center in Chicago, 2011.

ordered thousands of GIs to break the strike.

United Mine Workers president, John L. Lewis, declared during an earlier case of presidential strike-breaking by Franklin Roosevelt that "you can't dig coal with bayonets." You can't sort or deliver mail with bayonets either.

Many of the soldiers had parents who were union members and didn't want to cross picket lines. Members of the American Servicemens' Union — an anti-war and anti-racist union of GIs — urged soldiers to support the strikers.

Beat back the Trump attack

The working class — employed, unemployed and incarcerated — has been under attack for over 40 years. Reagan's breaking of the PATCO air traffic controllers' strike in 1981 was also revenge for the 1970 postal rebellion.

There've been cutbacks and give-backs at the post office. Employment has fallen from almost 800,000 workers in 1999 to slightly less than a half-million in 2019.

The starting pay of part-time rural letter carriers was cut by about \$6 per hour in the 2010 labor contract, although it rose from around \$15 to \$17 per hour in the 2015 contract.

Because of the increased use of

email, first class mail like letters has fallen from 104 billion pieces in 2001 to 55 billion last year. Trump points to this decline as an excuse for more attacks.

Yet 55 billion pieces is still a lot of mail — an average of 167 letters per person annually. The Post Office is also handling more packages than ever, including 40 percent of Amazon's shipments.

Another reason all the Trumps hate the postal service is that it's the largest employer of Black workers earning more than \$50,000 a year.

Close to 40 percent of postal workers are Asian, Black, Latinx or Indigenous. Two-fifths of the workforce are women.

The noted actor and human rights activist Danny Glover wrote about what the post office meant to him growing up:

"For my parents, both longtime postal employees and union officers, that was their community. Back then, it was mine, too. ... For Black families like mine, the Postal Service has long been one of the few reliable paths to the middle class.

"My parents were so proud in 1957, when they had saved enough money to buy a house. They sometimes held union meetings in our living room and had me put my seventh-grade typing skills to good use addressing

envelopes for the union newsletter."

Rainbow coalition needed

Trump wants to privatize the Postal Service and the Veterans' hospitals. We won't let him! Postal unions mobilized to stop Staples from selling stamps, which would have served as an excuse to fire post office employees.

Trillions of dollars have been handed out to bail out the banksters and big corporations. So why can't Congress find a few billion to save the post office?

People get ripped off by ATM fees. Why can't the post office offer savings accounts, as it did until 1967?

If Trump gets his way, many postal workers in the big cities will lose jobs and benefits. But rural areas, including Indigenous peoples living on reservations, will suffer too.

Cell phone monopolies refuse to offer service to millions of people living in remote areas, from Alaska to the Everglades. But postal workers deliver mail everywhere.

Dozens of car caravans have been organized recently. They've demanded freedom for prisoners endangered by COVID-19 and/or a moratorium on rents and mortgage payments.

We need to organize long-distance caravans to tell people that local post offices are in danger of shutting down. These caravans would strive to unite multinational metropolitan areas like Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York City with largely white rural areas.

This rainbow coalition on wheels would run over Trump's bigotry.

One more thing. Benjamin Franklin, the first U.S. postmaster general, was a racist and a slave owner His face should be taken off the \$100 bill and could be replaced with that of Frazier B. Baker.

Baker was the Black postmaster of Lake City, S.C., who was fatally shot in 1898 by a white mob who also killed his baby daughter. The local post office is now named after Baker.

Long live the memory of Frazier B. Baker! Hands off the post office! 📮

Mobilizing for Mumia Abu-Jamal's 66th birthday

Continued from page 3

nize the weekend of events. All of the events were going to be held on line, using social media, Zoom, Facebook and YouTube as the media. This type of international mobilization has never been done before. The technology team would be key to all of the events.

The five days of events began April 23 and centered on Mumia Abu-Jamal's 66th birthday, April 24.

The first event was an April 23 news conference. Included were two of the leading organizers, Pam Africa and Santiago Alvarez, a graduate student at University of California-Santa Cruz. Professor Linn Wash-

ington, Janine Africa and New York State Assembly member Charles Barron were among the speakers at the news conference and teach-in. The news conference was a success with hundreds of people signing on and participating.

On April 24, a teach-in featured over 20 speakers from across the U.S. and around the world, including political prisoners and former political prisoners. The speakers included Marc Lamont Hill, Fred Hampton Jr., Sekou Odinga, Janet Africa, Rasheed Johnson, Susie Abulhawa and Angela Davis. The Zoom hosts were Johanna Fernandez, Betsey Piette, Sophia Williams, Santiago Alvarez and Michael Africa Jr., son of Mike Africa of

the Move 9. The teach-in was a success with over five hundred people listening in.

On April 25, there was a virtual dance party with DJs and music.

The finale on April 26, "Poetry in Motion," started at noon, a 24-hour celebration of Mumia. It included Mumia's audio commentaries and slideshows, music and live videos, and birthday messages from individuals who shared experiences meeting and learning from Mumia. Organizations sent messages of solidarity from all over the world. Also shown was the story of the Move 9 and the Move Organization. Mumia's commentaries covered prisons, sports, the environment, art, history, poli-

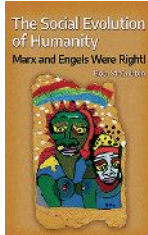
tics, May Day and other issues.

Mumia is an amazing journalist. His commentaries, along with his books, should be required supplemental reading for high school and college students.

Thank you Mumia for your 39-plus years of journalism. Thank you, Noelle Hanrahan and Prison Radio for recording and posting Mumia's commentaries. Thank you to all the organizers and those who contributed to this amazing five-day celebration of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Speaking truth is power!

Revolutionary birthday greetings, Mumia!

Release Mumia and all political prisoners now! 📮



Paperback or Kindle? <https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>

The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right!

by Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels' '*Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*.'

A NEW BOOK <https://tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5>

BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle in North America. This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture – slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

Black August celebrates legacy and accomplishments of Black women.

► The book is dedicated to Black, Brown, oppressed, and poor people who have been imprisoned and killed by the U.S. criminal justice system.



Coronavirus lab story originated in the White House

By Scott Scheffer

The campaign of slander against China to deflect criticism of President Trump over the COVID-19 pandemic has ratcheted up in recent days.

It isn't only a defensive move by the Trump administration itself. A leaked memo by GOP strategists urged Republican senatorial candidates to attack China instead of attempting to defend Trump during their election campaigns.

Trump himself is pushing the phony lab story — that the virus originated in a laboratory in Wuhan. Until recently, he was even raising the possibility that the virus was created purposely as a bioweapon. On May 1, he seemed to back off the bioweapon claim but is clinging to the story that the virus “escaped” the Wuhan lab in an accident.

Trump is also hammering away on the notion that China delayed reports of casualties from the virus, thereby setting up the rest of the world for a pandemic. For his part, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has also pushed the lab claim, and has even leveled charges that China downplayed the severity of the disease in January in order to hoard medical supplies and equipment.

The U.S. states of Missouri and Mississippi are suing China. Right-wingers like former Trump aide Steve Bannon, Sens. Marco Rubio, Tom Cotton, Ted Cruz and others are all trafficking in China bashing.

It would be easy to dismiss all of this as more absurd bluster by Trump and his right-wing sycophants, but presumed Democratic nominee for president Joe Biden says that Trump

has failed to hold China accountable and that he would be even tougher on China, were he to win the election.

According to the April 30 New York Times, so-called “China hawks” in the administration pushed so hard for U.S. spy agencies to say there was evidence to support the lab theory, that there was disgruntlement, with a former CIA official even accusing the administration of “conclusion shopping.” That resistance may have been a reflection of how much is at stake in China for U.S. companies that make billions doing business there. A subsequent report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence indicated that although they see no evidence to support the bioweapon theory, they will continue “investigating” the possibility that the virus “escaped” the Wuhan lab by accident.

Scientists are tired of explaining

The lab theory has been refuted by scientists, including the Federation of American Scientists and the World Health Organization (WHO). Both disagree that the virus could have originated from a laboratory — not by design, nor by accident. An April 20th sciencealert.com article called “Scientists Are Tired of Explaining Why The COVID-19 Virus Was Not Made in a Lab” quotes Kristian Andersen, a professor in the Department of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research Institute: “By comparing the available genome sequence data for known coronavirus strains, we can firmly determine that SARS-CoV-2 originated through natural processes. One strong in-

dicator that the new coronavirus evolved naturally, are flaws in the protein it uses to bind to human cells — deficiencies that someone trying to engineer a killer virus would have almost certainly avoided.”

Vox reported that Peter Daszak, a U.S. scientist who has studied coronaviruses and bats (the animal host) with colleagues in China, and at times in the lab in question, says that there was never a sample of the novel coronavirus at the Wuhan laboratory, only samples of similar coronaviruses. The genetic differences between those samples and the COVID-19 virus are significant.

Even though they are in the same family of viruses, it would take decades of mutations for any of those samples to match the virus that has caused COVID-19. Daszak said, “No one had SARS-CoV-2 in culture. All of the hypotheses [of lab release] depend on them having it in culture or having bats in a lab. No one’s got bats in a lab, it’s absolutely unnecessary and very difficult to do.” The funding from the National Institute of Health that enabled Daszak’s collaborative work with China was cut off on April 23.

The claim being pushed by Pompeo

is that China underreported cases and deaths in January, and didn’t disclose that there was human-to-human transmission. This, the line goes, was so that other countries wouldn’t grasp the potential spread of the disease, and then China could stealthily stockpile

and hoard medical equipment and supplies through regular trade. The accusation is sickening, given the level of cooperation and aid to other countries that China has exhibited, even after gaining control in the battle against the virus at home.

Chinese doctors first reported the outbreak to the WHO on Jan. 1. All they knew at the time was that there was a cluster of cases of pneumonia. The WHO issued an online guidance on Jan. 10 that said, “Based on experience with SARS and MERS ... recommending droplet and contact precautions when caring for patients, and airborne precautions for aerosol generating procedures conducted by health workers.”

For scientists, medical professionals and government officials, that is a clear warning about contagion. The WHO, along with the most prestigious medical journals, the Journal of the American Medical Association, the New England Journal of Medicine and Lancet have all published about COVID-19 and closely watched the casualty statistics. None have reported any suspicion that China was underreporting at any time. ■



Soviet victory in Berlin ended Nazi terror

By Bill Dores

May 9, 2020, is the 75th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany and the end of World War II in Europe. At least 80 million people died in the Second World War, 3 percent of the world’s population. Among them were millions of Jewish, Roma, disabled, LGBTQ2S and other people gassed, shot or starved to death because the Nazis deemed them “unfit to live.”

World War II and the rise of fascism that preceded it were the products of monopoly capitalist rivalry and a capitalist economic crisis not unlike the one we see today. The Soviet Union, the world’s first socialist state, played the decisive role in ending it.

Operation Barbarossa, the Nazi invasion of the USSR, was the biggest military operation in history. The Nazis controlled all the resources of occupied Europe. Italy, Finland, Hungary, Romania and Spain joined Germany in the invasion.

Twenty-seven million Soviet soldiers and civilians lost their lives. Seventy thousand Soviet cities, towns and villages were destroyed.

In one of the war’s most iconic images, Red Army soldiers raise Soviet flag over the ruins of the Reichstag, Berlin, on May 2, 1945.



PHOTO: YEVGENY KHALDEI

In the hero city of Leningrad alone, 1.5 million people died from hunger, artillery and bombs during an 837-day siege.

But in brutal battles in Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad and Kursk, the multinational Soviet Red Army broke the back of the Nazi war machine, fought its way west to Germany and ended the Nazi dream of a “Thousand-Year Reich.”

On the night of April 30, 1945, Soviet soldiers first raised the red Soviet flag atop the Reichstag, high over Berlin. A few hours earlier, below the streets of the German capital, Adolf Hitler shot himself in his underground bunker.

Fighting continued for two more days. On May 2, German forces in Berlin surrendered and this famous picture was taken by Soviet war

photographer Yevgeny Khaldei. On May 9, the German high command surrendered. The war raged for three more months in Asia until the surrender of Imperial Japan on Aug. 15.

Four hundred and twenty thousand U.S. soldiers and sailors died in the war, but for the U.S. capitalist ruling class, many of whom had supported Hitler before the war, World War II was the best thing that ever happened. The global devastation put U.S. banks and corporations at the center of the world capitalist economy and gave birth to the U.S. military-industrial complex and the permanent war economy that is still with us today.

The bodies of the dead were not buried, and ruined cities still smoldered when the U.S., Britain and West European capitalist powers turned on their World War II allies — the Soviet Union and anti-fascist partisan movements in Europe and Asia. They launched the nuclear arms race and the “Cold War,” which was in reality a bloody onslaught against the rising forces of socialism and national liberation all over the world.

These events will be the topic of an upcoming series in Struggle-La Lucha.

Venezuela smashes mercenary coup attempt

By Scott Scheffer

In the early morning hours of May 3, sixty trained mercenaries in speedboats left Colombia and motored toward the northern coast of Venezuela, north of Caracas.

Their plan was to inspire a counter-revolutionary mutiny among Venezuelan soldiers and kidnap President Nicolás Maduro to take him to the U.S. But there was no mutiny.

The Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) were waiting for them. Six mercenaries were killed in the encounter, and so far 23 have been arrested, including two U.S. Green Berets who spent months in Colombia training the right-wing assassins.

A statement issued by FANB on Sunday indicated that they had infiltrated the plot and, as the speedboats attempted their amphibious landing, FANB forces attacked and vanquished them. Interior Minister Nestor Reverol and Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López said that defensive operations were continuing.

National Constituent Assembly leader Diosdado Cabello said that weapons had also been seized at a safehouse that had been set up inside the country, and that much of the weaponry matched what was stolen in a failed coup attempt in April 2019. It included three vehicles fitted with machine guns, AR-15/M16-type rifles, Glock pistols, ammunition belts, night vision goggles, handheld radios, tablet computers and body armor.

On May 6, President Maduro announced the capture of four more mercenaries. One of them was captured by the people of the town of Cepe in Aragua state. Maduro thanked the FANB and offered a special thanks to the Bolivarian people of Cepe, Puerto Maya and Chuao, in the state of Aragua and Carayaca in La Guaira state for their assistance in the subsequent arrests of the mercenaries.

Coup planned for a year

It was a coup plan that was a year in the making. The training took place in camps in Colombia, and there was an agreement that the forces aligned with Juan Guaidó would pay more than \$200 million for the operation.

One of the leading figures was a former U.S. Special Forces soldier named Jordan Goudreau, who, according to a lengthy Associated Press article that came out two days before the raid, was charged with stealing \$62,000 in housing stipends from the military before he retired. Goudreau later founded a private mercenary outfit called Silvercorp and has provided bodyguard services for Trump. The Silvercorp website boasts being active in 50 countries.

Goudreau initially collaborated with a former Venezuelan general, Cliver Alcalá, who has since surrendered to the U.S. after having been indicted on drug trafficking charges. Goudreau continued organizing the plot along with former Venezuelan National Guard Capt. Javier Nie-

to and a handful of other traitors to the Bolivarian revolution. Together, they trained a group of defectors who had fled to Colombia after being defeated in an earlier coup attempt a year ago. The firefight was over quickly and Goudreau's mercenaries were crushed.

Contract signed by Guaidó

Now that the attempted putsch was defeated, the Guaidó forces deny any connection with the raid at all. But Goudreau, who stayed at home in Miami during the raid, has since produced a contract, dated in October 2019 and signed by Guaidó and two of his cronies.

The contract details the payment of \$213 million. Guaidó apparently attracted investors to finance the operation by paying 55 percent interest on loans and preferential treatment regarding contracts in the energy industry in his intended new government. Since the raid was defeated, members of Primero Justicia, one of the main political parties in Guaidó's G-4 coalition, condemned "Operation Gedeón" as the raid is called, and called on Guaidó to denounce it.

The White House also denies any connection. "Whatever it is, we'll let you know, but it has nothing to do with our government," said Trump. Defense Secretary Mark Esper denying Pentagon involvement, and the CIA said that they tried to talk the coup plotters out of it. In another denial that was also a threat, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, "If

we had been involved, it would have turned out differently."

But Guaidó's chief strategist, Juan José Rendón, inadvertently revealed U.S. involvement in a CNN interview. When he was questioned about the nature of the contract — being one of the signers — he described the document as "an exploration to see the possibility of capture and delivery of justice for members of the regime who have an arrest warrant." The contract was signed in October 2019, but the bogus arrest warrants issued by the U.S. against President Maduro and others didn't happen until mid-March 2020. In other words, the plan was hatched knowing the arrest warrants would be issued by the U.S. five months before they were issued.

Once again, would-be coup plotters greatly underestimated the commitment of the people to the Bolivarian political process. They thought they could inspire an uprising amongst soldiers who have shown again and again that they are with the revolution. But we can't take this victory by the Venezuelan people for granted. The fact that another attempt happened, shows that U.S. imperialism is always a threat, and that the threat is even greater due to the crisis the billionaires find themselves in.

The people's movement has to be ready to respond against the possibility of a direct U.S. intervention and to strengthen the fight against the deadly sanctions.

U.S. hands off Venezuela! 🇺🇸

TURKEY Political prisoners continue fight as Grup Yorum member perishes

By Greg Butterfield

May 7 — Today, musician and political prisoner Ibrahim Gökçek died in Istanbul, Turkey, after a nearly yearlong hunger strike against the repressive NATO government of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Two days earlier, Gökçek had called a temporary pause to his fast, but it was too late.

"We weren't palace clowns. We didn't kill people. We sang songs. Damn this system," said Gökçek shortly before his death.

Bass player Gökçek was the second member of socialist music group Grup Yorum to die in just over a month. His bandmate and fellow hunger-striker Helin Bölek died on April 3. Another political prisoner who joined their "hunger strike to the death," Mustafa Koçak, died in prison on April 24.

Both Gökçek and Bölek were released from prison earlier this year on medical grounds, as a result of a massive international pressure campaign. But Erdoğan's regime still refused to meet their demands, which include the unbanning of Grup Yorum concerts and the release of other band members, and so the two continued their hunger strike. In March, the government briefly kidnapped them from their beds and attempted to force feed them, but failed.

In a May Day appeal to fellow musicians and artists, Gökçek wrote: "I want to live, of course. So, friends,



Ibrahim Gökçek at funeral of Helin Bölek in April 2020.

PHOTO: FREE GRUP YORUM

how do I leave the resistance when the resistance has come to this stage, when there is no concrete gain?

"Now, with all our strength, we must put pressure on the powers to meet our demands. Intellectuals and our musician friends should now meet with the relevant ministry and the presidency by establishing delegations among themselves without delay, and ensure that our demands are met. I greet you all with the warmth of Helin and Mustafa and the enthusiasm of our resistance."

Support hunger strikers' demands

Four years ago, at a May 2016 anti-fascist conference in Krasnodon, Lugansk People's Republic, Ukrainian activist Alexey Albu introduced me to Aytaç Ünsal from the People's Law Office in Turkey. Today, Ünsal and

many other attorneys who represent political movements, including Grup Yorum, have themselves become political prisoners in Turkey.

Ünsal and his colleague Ebru Timtik are now on a hunger strike to the death, following the example of Ibrahim Gökçek and Helin Bölek. Aytaç is on day 96 of his death fast. Ebru is on day 127 of hers.

The blood of the Grup Yorum musicians is on the hands of Erdoğan. It is also on the hands of U.S. President Donald Trump and the leaders of the NATO imperialist powers who allow the fascist regime in Turkey to run rampant against the working class and peasants, leftist and Kurdish movements at home, while carrying out genocidal wars on NATO's behalf against neighboring Syria and in faraway Libya.

It is urgent for leftist and workers' movements in the U.S. to join the international campaign to save Turkey's hunger strikers and support their demands. These include:

- Lift the ban on Grup Yorum concerts.
 - Release imprisoned members of Grup Yorum. Five Grup Yorum musicians are still in detention. All are charged with being members of a "terrorist organization" — the communist Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP-C). A sign of goodwill by the government would be the release of Sultan Gökçek and Ali Araci, who have their trial on May 20.
 - Stop raiding the Idil Cultural Centre.
 - A fair trial for all political prisoners.
 - Reversal of unjust judgments against hundreds of political prisoners, especially against the people's lawyers for up to 18 years in prison as a result of statements by "secret witnesses" and statements by police informant Cavit Yilmaz.
 - A fair trial for all accused!
 - Free the people's lawyers, Grup Yorum members and all political prisoners! Tell Trump and Erdogan to meet their demands now!
- For updates, follow Free Grup Yorum on Twitter and People's Law Office on Facebook.

STATEMENT FROM THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY
PARTIDO DE SOCIALISMO UNIDO

Dr. Roh Kil Nam advocate for peace and the reunification of Korea

On April 25, the world lost a great person dedicated to the Korean people, international solidarity, with an unflinching determination to expose the truth — all motivated by his love for humanity. Dr. Roh Kil Nam, also known as Ken Roh, was the founder of “Minjok Tongshin,” an online news publication started in 1999 in the U.S. dedicated to reporting honest news about the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and countering misinformation from the U.S. media about North Korea.

Dr. Roh was born in 1944 in Gangneung, Gangwon-do, Korea, while under Japanese colonial rule. Roh began his political struggle for the democratization of South Korea during the dictatorship of U.S.-sponsored President Park Chung-hee.

Being born into the brutal Japanese colonial rule and enduring dictatorship in South Korea helped forge the steel of an activist and journalist. Dr. Roh lived his life determined to provide the movement for democracy in South Korea and the struggle for unification with the North with the necessary tools to counter imperialism’s powerful weapon of lies helping to continue the U.S. imperial-

ist-maintained division between the North and South. He knew that the building of solidarity would require exposing those lies and professionally manufactured misinformation in the belly of the beast — the U.S.

Dr. Roh was instrumental in promoting organizations dedicated to that purpose and his work was recognized enough to have a meeting with a famous guerilla fighter against Japanese occupation who was also the DPRK’s first president, Kim Il Sung. Later in life, Dr. Roh would also be awarded the prestigious Kim Il Sung award by the DPRK government in 2014 for exemplary service towards building the ideals of the North Korean people.

Upon arriving in the U.S. in 1973, Dr. Roh quickly recognized that the claims of freedom and democracy in the U.S. were a myth that was exposed by the civil rights movement and historical racism faced by Black and Chinese people. His ideal of building solidarity and unity extended internationally. In Los Angeles County, where Dr. Roh lived, he was always happy to participate and use his media to cover protests supporting the liberation struggles



of all oppressed peoples. He was also dedicated to the building of unity between progressive organizations in the U.S.

Dr. Roh was a tireless advocate for peace and reunification of the Korean Peninsula. He traveled 75 times to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and each time brought back the truth of North Korea, her people and their efforts to defend their sovereignty.

Our heart goes out to his family, and to all those who worked with Dr. Roh to end the imperialist division of beautiful Korea. Long live Dr. Roh Kil Nam! Korea is one!

For the Los Angeles Branch,
Socialist Unity Party / Partido de
Socialismo Unido:

Maggie Vascassenno
Rebecka Jackson
Scott Scheffer
Jefferson Azevedo
John Parker



MAY DAY

Workers fight for their lives

Continued from page 1

was born into slavery in 1851 in Virginia, her mother being a slave.

When we think about May Day, we have to reflect on its origins and what it is meant to fight for, especially when we are struggling against racism and exploitation.

Another institution that was fundamental in the establishment of May Day was the First International, an international grouping of leaders of labor, communist, socialist and anarchist organizations.



Lucy Parsons

Karl Marx on May Day

One of its founders was Karl Marx. Marx makes the links to Lucy Parsons and the need for May Day clear.

In “Capital,” written in 1867, Marx says:

“In the United States of America, any sort of independent labor movement was paralyzed so long as slavery disfigured a part of the republic. Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded. But out of the death of slavery a new vigorous life sprang. The first fruit of the Civil War was an agitation for the 8-hour day — a movement which ran with express speed from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from New England to California.”

And, to further the point of May Day’s relevance to socialism let’s bring it home with an article written for May Day in 1913 by the revolutionary socialist Rosa Luxemburg:

“The brilliant chief idea of the May Day celebration is the independent action of the proletarian masses, is the political mass action of the millions of workers ... combined with the direct international mass manifestation, the laying down of tools, is a demonstration and fighting tactic for the 8-hour day, world peace and Socialism ... the more the May Day idea, the idea of resolute mass action as demonstrations of international solidarity and as a fighting tactic for peace and for Socialism ... the greater guarantee we shall have that from the world war, which will inevitably take place sooner or later, there will result an ultimately victorious settlement of the struggle between the world of labor and that of capital.”

On behalf of Karl, Lucy and Rosa, thank you to all the workers and oppressed peoples of the world and their organizations that kept May Day and its mission alive, even during this pandemic.

Webinar celebrates Lenin’s contributions to socialist struggle

As part of a series of Marxism classes sponsored by the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper, a special webinar was held April 26 to mark the 150th birthday of V.I. Lenin, founder of the Bolshevik (communist) Party and leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

Presentations and discussion focused on Lenin’s contributions to revolutionary Marxism as a tool for the emancipation of workers and oppressed peoples, including what we can learn from his example at this moment of global political, social and economic crisis.

The webinar kicked off with a diverse group of activists reading passages from Vince Copeland’s pamphlet, “Lenin: Thinker, Fighter.” Copeland described Lenin as “The ‘beginner’ ... part of the inevitable and unconscious force of history, [who began] a whole chain of revolutions and a new phase in the world socialist revolution first conceived by Karl Marx.”

Lenin recognized that the cause of world socialism “requires a relentless struggle against the ruling-class enemy, which resists the coming into being of the socialist age with all its might,” wrote Copeland. “This struggle, in turn, requires a different kind of person to engage in it. It also requires a plan, a strategy, a theory and a leadership.

“Lenin provided all those, but in order to do that effectively he had to conduct himself and even shape himself in a certain way,” Copeland explained.

John Parker, a leader of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles and national spokesperson for the Socialist Unity Party, talked about the importance of Lenin’s historic contribution to understanding the struggle of oppressed nationalities and people with special oppressions.

How to build unity?

“The question for the leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution was, how were they going to build unity? How could they unify the fighting army that was needed to take state power? How could they convince oppressed non-Russian workers and peasants, who historically didn’t trust the majority Russian population, to even desire a socialist state?

“The solution came through trying to build trust through political and economic solidarity, using the right of self-determination.”

Miranda Etel, an activist with Youth Against War and Racism and the Peoples Power Assembly in Baltimore, recalled Lenin’s Marxist analysis of imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism, and urged participants to review Lenin’s five-point definition of imperialism.

“Why does the U.S. spend billions on the Pentagon and almost nothing on public health, education and jobs? Why is the U.S. government intent on inflicting pain and suffering around the world through sanctions? Why can’t we get life-saving medicine from Cuba during this pandemic?

“To understand these questions,

it’s important to understand what imperialism is. Lenin, building on Marx, developed the theory that explained imperialism,” she said.

From New York, Struggle-La Lucha co-editor Greg Butterfield spoke of what Lenin’s example can teach communists about responding to moments of sharp change in capitalist society to further the fight for revolutionary socialism.

After the Russian Revolution, Lenin wrote the book “Left-Wing Communism” to explain the history of the Bolshevik party and how it altered its tactics to meet the challenges of a variety of situations, from times of reaction and repression to workers’ upsurge. These experiences, Butterfield said, made it possible for Lenin and the Bolsheviks to take the right course of action when a revolutionary situation arose during World War I.

“Lenin couldn’t predict the exact date of the revolution even shortly before it happened, just like we can’t predict what will happen in two months or two years. But like Lenin, we can strive to be prepared, to be flexible and take advantage of those opportunities when they do come.”

The webinar was recorded and is available to view on the Struggle-La Lucha YouTube channel. You can also read more at Struggle-La Lucha’s page devoted to #Lenin150.

Online Marxism classes are held on the second and fourth Sundays of every month. Visit and “like” the Struggle-La Lucha Facebook page for updates and to register for upcoming classes.

Contesta los ataques contra Cuba con más solidaridad — Cuba salva vidas

Por Cheryl LaBash

En las primeras horas del 30 de abril, balas fueron disparadas hacia la embajada Cubana en Washington, D.C. El Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores Cubano Bruno Rodríguez Parilla reportó por un tweet esta mañana que “el personal de la misión no resultó herido y está a salvo. La investigación está en proceso.” Rodríguez Parilla enfatizó, “Es la responsabilidad de los Estados de proteger a sus diplomáticos acreditados a ellos y en sus instalaciones.”

Este ataque fue el mismo día después que U.S. Secretario de Estado Mike Pompeo y otros oficiales de la administración hizo declaraciones públicas vilipendiando? las

misiones médicas internacionales humanitarias de Cuba.

Detrás de escena, el giro diplomático de los Estados Unidos no ha podido bloquear las solicitudes de asistencia médica Cubana. Frustrado, Pompeo destacó a Qatar y a Sudáfrica dio la bienvenida a su segunda brigada.

Hay más de veinte países con médicos profesionales Cubanos ayudando a combatir contra el COVID-19, y más y más países solicitando el Interferón Afa-2b recombinante de Cuba. Una campaña, #SavingLives, también está creciendo en los Estados Unidos, abogando por la colaboración entre Estados Unidos, Cuba y Canadá en la lucha contra COVID-19, incluidos los ensayos clínicos para el interferón Cubano.



Un ejército de batas blancas integrado por más de 593 profesionales de la salud, de ellos 338 mujeres, organizados en 15 brigadas del Contingente Henry Reeve, ya prestan sus servicios en Europa, América Latina y el Caribe.

El 3 de Abril, On April 3, el Associated Press citó a la ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Andorra, María Ubach, acerca de dar la bienvenida a los internacionalistas médicos cubanos al pequeño país en la frontera de Francia y España: “Soy consciente de la posición de Estados Unidos, pero somos un país soberano y

podemos elegir los socios con los que vamos a cooperar”.

TheHill.com reportó que un individuo que fue arrestado en el lugar enfrenta “cargos de posesión de un arma de fuego y municiones no registradas, asalto con la intención de matar y posesión de un dispositivo de alimentación de alta capacidad”.

Answer attacks on Cuban Embassy with more solidarity Cuba saves lives

By Cheryl LaBash

Shots were fired at the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C., in the early hours of April 30. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parilla reported by tweet this morning that “mission staff was not injured and is safe. Investigation is in progress.” Rodríguez Parilla emphasized, “It is the responsibility of States to protect diplomats accredited to them and their facilities.”

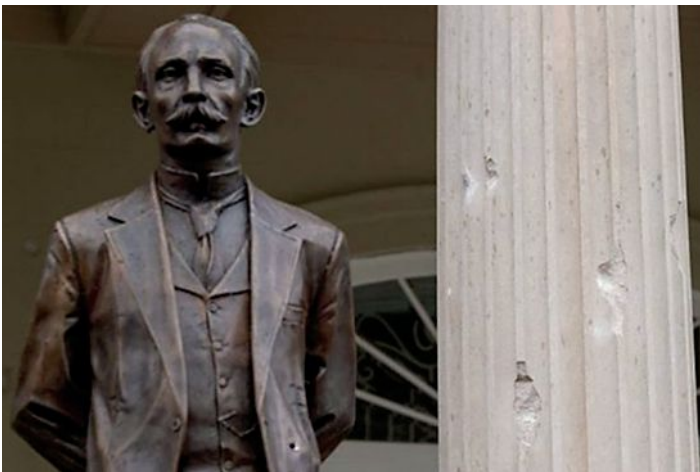
This attack comes just the morning after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other administration officials made public statements vilifying Cuba’s humanitarian international medical missions.

Behind the scenes, U.S. diplomatic

arm twisting has failed to block requests for Cuban medical assistance. In frustration, Pompeo singled out Qatar, and South Africa welcoming its second brigade.

There are now more than 20 countries with Cuban medical professionals helping to fight COVID-19, plus even more countries requesting Cuba’s Interferon Afa-2b Recombinant. A #SavingLives campaign is growing in the U.S., too, advocating U.S.-Cuba-Canada collaboration in Fighting COVID-19, including clinical trials for Cuban interferon.

On April 3, the Associated Press quoted Andorran Foreign Minister María Ubach about welcoming Cuban medical internationalists to the tiny country on the border of France



Cuba releases photos of bullet-riddled D.C. embassy. See the bullet hole in statue of José Martí.

PHOTO: CANCELLERÍA DE CUBA / CUBAMINREX

and Spain: “I am aware of the position of the United States, but we are a sovereign country and we can choose the partners with which we are going to have cooperation.”

TheHill.com reported that an individual arrested at the scene is facing “charges of being in possession of

an unregistered firearm and unregistered ammunition, assault with the intent to kill, and possession of a high-capacity feed device.”

For those who want to oppose the latest attack on socialist Cuba in words and deeds, please go to SavingLives.US-CubaNormalization.org for more information.

JUSTICE for AHMAUD ARBERY End white supremacy & racist murder

Continued from page 1

ing had a copy of the shocking video since February. Before May 7, no charges of any kind had been filed against the McMichaels, who claimed they chased Arbery because he “looked like a burglary suspect.”

The 2020 Ahmaud Arbery murder is not only reminiscent of the 2012 Trayvon Martin murder, it echos the 1955 murder of Emmitt Till. The three lynchings are examle of what political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal explains in his 2017 book, “Have Black Lives Ever Mattered.”

In the chapter titled “To Protect and Serve Whom? Reforms? Or Revolutionary Change,” Mumia writes about the proposed solutions offered by Dr. Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party. Newton wrote several articles proposing how we might totally transform “American Policing.” In the tail end of the fiery 1960s and chilling 1970s, Newton’s articles followed years of on-the-ground organizing, demanding not “community policing,” but “community control over the police.”

Until this capitalist system — which needs tools like racism to

keep us divided in order to facilitate the super exploitation of Black and Brown peoples — is discarded, these lynchings will, unfortunately, continue.

Part of that fight to change society includes fighting for our demands.

We should demand from this racist system that any communities of color, which have been victimized by police murder, should have the right, and be given the resources, to replace the existing police force in their communities with one of their own making, hiring trusted members from their communities — a police force controlled and created by them.

In addition, to protect all people of color no matter where they live, laws protecting victims of racist terror and murder cannot go unenforced and must fall under a stricter set of guidelines with regard to criminal justice. There should be immediate arrests when people of color are murdered by racists or police or Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any other state or local criminal justice agency.

And those complicit in those crimes, including criminal justice officials from cops to judges who ig-

nore racist homicides, must also be charged as criminals.

We know that these demands cannot be met by the system unless they are forced upon it by a powerful and militant movement.

In 2013, sparked by the killing of Trayvon Martin, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement released a 2012 annual report titled, “The Extrajudicial Killings of 313 Black People Killed by Police, Security Guards and Vigilantes in the United States,” finding that a Black person is killed every 28 hours. This report inspired further research that found from the years 2013 to 2018, an average of 1,000 people are killed yearly by the police. Black men and Native Americans held the highest percentage. Has this number changed?

Again, out of anger and rage we mobilize for justice for another Black man brutally killed by a retired police thug and his son, who were

initially given a pass, sent home to a good night’s rest and a pat on the shoulder for a job well done.

If our progressive movement, its organizations and activists fighting for social and economic justice come together in unity and solidarity with people of color fighting for liberation and self-determination, we can move mountains.

It’s going to take millions of people taking action against this problem of police terror, not only when these incidents happen. We have to be ready at all times. In this time of COVID-19, we need to look for other ways to engage our communities in the fight to tear down this existing criminal justice system and replace it with a system that truly “protects and serves,” not the racists nor the system that enables them, but the people.

Gloria Verdieu,
Rebecka Jackson,
John Parker

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